

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 18, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 10, 13-14, 18 & 40 over prior art, but objects to claims 2-9, 11-12, 15-17 & 19-39 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and states that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitation of the base independent claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has incorporated this indicated allowable subject matter into existing independent claims and has transformed four dependent claims into independent claims including these recitations as indicated below.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Claims 1, 3-9, 14, 16, 19, 22, 25, 29, 32 & 40 have been amended. Claims 2, 15, 35 & 39 have been canceled. New claims 41-44 have been added.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all the recitations of dependent claim 2 indicated by the Office Action as being allowable subject matter if incorporated into the intervening independent claim. Claim 2 is canceled as a result of the subject matter incorporated into claim 1, and claims 3-8 are amended to change their dependency from claim 2 to claim 1.

Dependent claim 9, indicated by the Office Action as being allowable subject matter if incorporated into the intervening independent claim, has been amended into independent form incorporating the recitations of independent claim 1 and dependent claim 2. The original recitation of the elongated handle and impact portion removeably affixed together has been incorporated into the newly added preamble of the claim.

Independent claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 15, indicated by the Office Action as being allowable subject matter if incorporated into the intervening independent claim. Claim 15 is canceled as a result of the subject matter incorporated into claim 14, and claim 16 is amended to change its dependency from claim 15 to claim 14. Additionally, claim 14 has been amended to recite a “sporting implement for attachment to an elongated handle...,” and no longer positively recites the elongated handle in the claim.

Dependent claim 19, indicated by the Office Action as being allowable subject matter if incorporated into the intervening independent claim, has been amended into independent form incorporating the recitations of amended independent claim 14. Dependent claim 22 has amended its dependency from claim 14 to newly amended claim 19.

Dependent claim 25, indicated by the Office Action as being allowable subject matter if incorporated into the intervening independent claim, has been amended into independent form incorporating the recitations of amended independent claim 14. Dependent claim 29 has amended its dependency from claim 14 to newly amended claim 25.

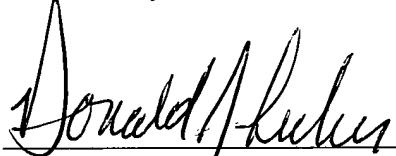
Dependent claim 32, indicated by the Office Action as being allowable subject matter if incorporated into the intervening independent claim, has been amended into independent form incorporating the recitations of amended independent claim 14.

Dependent claim 40 is amended to remove the positive recitation to an elongated handle.

Newly added dependent claims 41-44 depending on independent claims 9, 19, 25 & 32, respectively, have been added to recite bamboo layers treated with hydrogen peroxide in dependent form to all the newly converted independent claims.

Applicant has added no new matter in any of these amendments, and now believes based on the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter, that the incorporation of this allowable subject matter into the independent claims and the conversion of dependent claims to independent form incorporating this subject matter, renders this application in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 20, 2004